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# Mississippi River Forum

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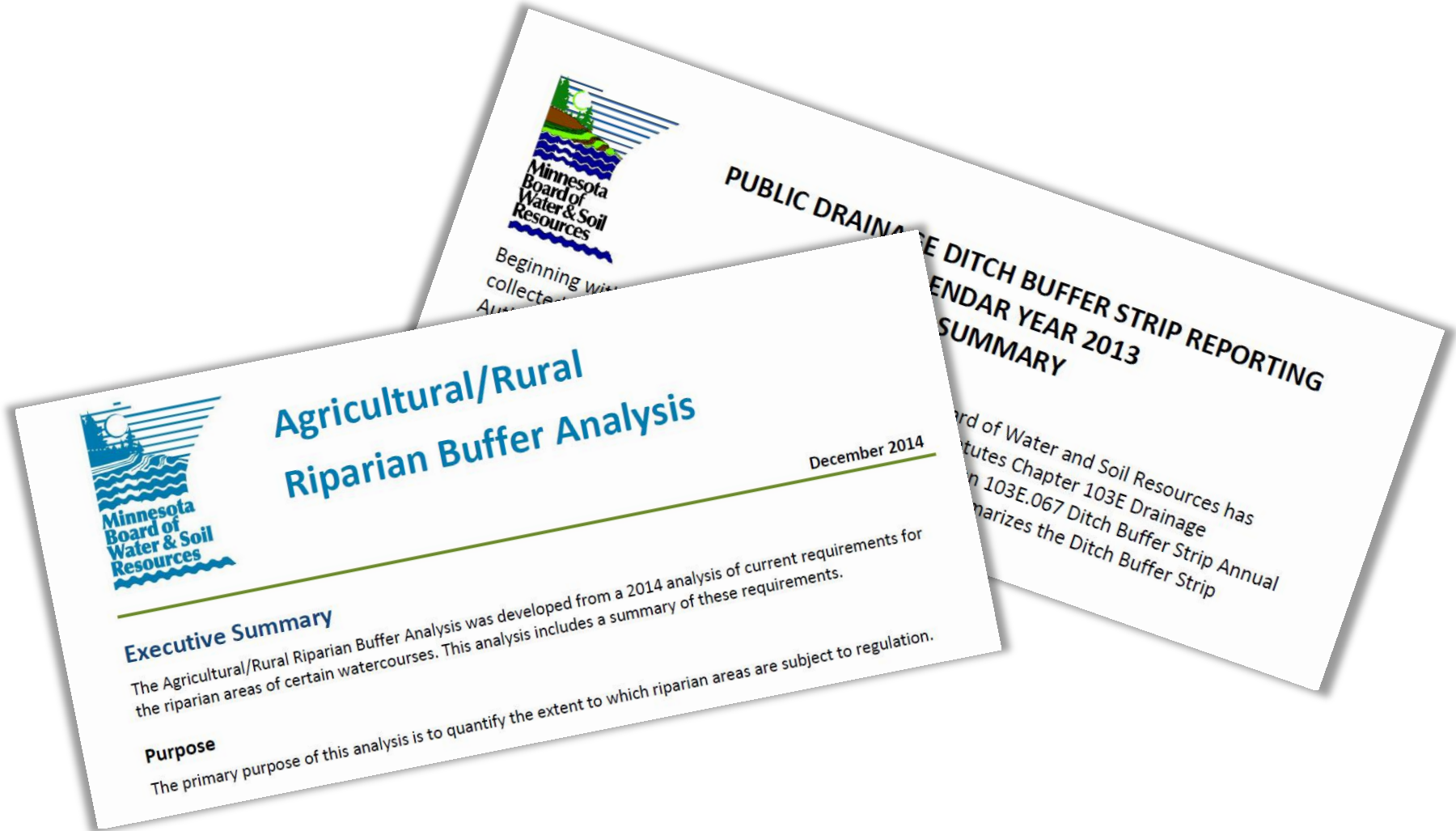
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May 9, 2015

John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director



# Existing Rules and Laws





# Buffer Analysis Results

Riparian classification	Linear miles	% Total stream/ditches	Buffer required (feet)
Shoreland Requirement	21,642	30%	50.0
Ditch Buffer Requirement	4,022	6%	16.5
No Buffer Requirement	44,850	64%	0.0

# Buffers Improve Water Quality





# Buffers Improve Water Quality





# Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative



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# Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative

## **What is the purpose of the Buffer Initiative?**

State policy is to protect all waters from threats of serious pollution. The Buffer Initiative supports state policy by establishing a 50-foot vegetated buffer that reduces erosion and runoff to Minnesota's waters.





# Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative

**Which waters are included in the proposed buffer requirement?**

Statewide, waters will be subject to this requirement if they have a defined bed and bank, and have flowing water during the majority of the growing season in most years.



# Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative

**Will any general exemptions to the 50 foot buffer requirement be considered?**

Yes. The following areas would be exempt:

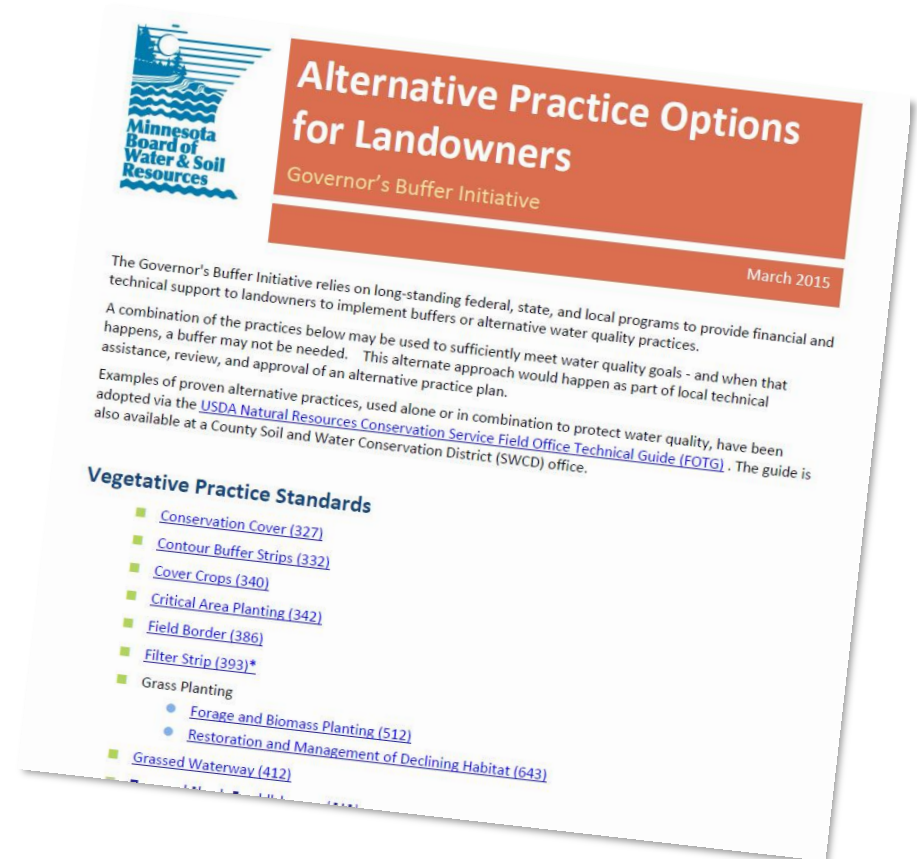
- Land enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Public or private water access or recreational use areas
- Areas covered by a road, building or other structures
- Municipalities or others in compliance with federal and state storm sewer or storm water law



# Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative

## Water Resources Protection required:

- A 50-foot wide buffer of perennially rooted vegetation; or
- Alternative water quality practice, or combination of practices.



# Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative

**Is there financial assistance available for landowners?**

There are many programs at the local, state, and federal level that provide assistance for establishing buffers.



## Options for Landowner Financial & Technical Support

Governor's Buffer Initiative

March 2015

The Governor's Buffer Initiative relies on long-standing federal, state, and local programs to provide financial and technical support to landowners to implement buffers or alternative water quality practices. These programs include:

### Federal

#### Farm Service Agency (FSA)

- General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Helps agricultural producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land. CRP participants plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion, and enhance wildlife habitat. Ten year contracts with annual rental payments and restoration cost-share.
- Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) – Environmentally desirable land devoted to certain conservation practices may be enrolled in CRP at any time under continuous sign-up. Ten to fifteen year contracts with annual rental payments and restoration cost-share.



*A grass buffer strip in Redwood County.*

#### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to ten years. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance.
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Includes both working lands (Agricultural Land Easements) and protection type of easement programs (Wetlands Reserve Easement). Provides easement payment and restoration costs.

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

- Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program - Restores, improves, and protects fish and wildlife habitat on private lands through alliances between the USFWS, other organizations, and individuals.





# Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative

**For more information:**

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers)